

*Equal Services for All?*

# Domestic violence/abuse Services in London

Enquiry into DVA services provided by  
London Boroughs in 2016/17

*General results*

March 2018



**Equal Rights for Men and Women**

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**General Enquiry using FOI Requests into  
Domestic Violence services in London in 2016/17**



Locations of London Boroughs  
Courtesy GLA map

## General Enquiry using FOI Requests into Domestic Violence services in London in 2016/17

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## **Domestic violence services in London**

### **Introduction**

Those who suffer violence or abuse in a family or partner setting, especially of a severe or chronic nature, are urged to report it to the police or other authority. However, many prefer not to report it officially but do reveal it to work friends, colleagues, medics, close relatives or others.

A significant proportion do not report it all, and either live with it, or, if this is not feasible, leave the joint residence.

This general enquiry is largely restricted to identifying those services which are available from local authorities in London for those victims who report to them.

### **Method**

To obtain this information, a Freedom of Information Request (FOIR) was sent to each of the thirty two main London Boroughs in autumn 2017 seeking details of the services provided by each Borough for victims of domestic violence/abuse (DVA) reporting to them in 2016/17. The wording of the Request can be found in Appendix 1.

A similar Request was also made to the Greater London Authority (GLA) since this, via the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), provides certain pan-London DVA services on behalf of or in addition to the Boroughs.

A FOIR was also made to the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) to establish the number of persons reporting DVA to the Police in the London area during 2016/17.

Enquiries were also made to a number of organisations which provide or help arrange temporary accommodation, including for persons who may have become homeless as a result of domestic abuse and who are not supported by their Borough or MOPAC.

The detailed results of the enquiry are presented in Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

The total population in the thirty two Boroughs in June 2016 was 8.78 million people, this comprising 1.79 million children under age 16, 5.65 million people between 16 and 59, and 1.34 million older people age 60 and over. The number of adults of 16 and over in the London area in 2016 was thus 6.99 million.

### **Summary of conclusions**

(1) The results suggest (see summary table below), that the two main services provided by the Boroughs during 2016/17 comprised a limited amount of refuge accommodation for female victims and young children (28 Boroughs), and the availability of Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs) for both sexes (22 Boroughs).

(2) To a lesser extent, help was given with improving home sanctuary/security for both sexes (15 Boroughs). Outreach provision of some form was also provided by most Boroughs (see Table 3), with a variety of services, these supplemented by pan-London services provided by MOPAC.

**Summary of services provided by London Boroughs for victims of domestic violence/abuse**

	IDVA	MARAC	Security/ Sanctuary	Emergency Accomdn	Refuge provision	Outreach/ Other
Number of Boroughs providing (out of 32)	F+M 22 F+M? 2 F 3	F+M 9 F+M? 1	F+M 15 F 1	F+M 10 F 1 F? 1	F 28	F+M 23 F+M? 1 F 4 F? 1
Totals	27	10	16	12	28	29

(3) Of particular note is that emergency or temporary accommodation, for male victims generally and for female victims not accommodated in refuges, appeared to be provided by only twelve Boroughs. If correct, this would leave such victims in other Boroughs possibly exposed to homelessness if they were forced out of their homes, and dependent on the voluntary and/or charitable sector for shelter.

(4) Also surprising was the indication that about half the Boroughs appear not to help victims with improving home security, since according to one charity<sup>(1)</sup>, all Boroughs in London operate a sanctuary project, although presumably limited only to those victims who do not own their home or hold a sole tenancy.

(5) The same charity also concludes that most London Boroughs do not accept single persons fleeing domestic violence as being vulnerable simply by reason of the violence, and require another reason on top of this to be found vulnerable and in priority need. They also believe that a single man who does not have children and has exhausted all the local authority requirements, and there are no immediate spaces in emergency hostels, may have no option but to 'sleep rough'.

**Extent of domestic violence and/or abuse (DVA) in London in 2016/17**

(1) According to the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) records for the fiscal year 2016/17, a total of 76,600 persons reported DVA against them in the thirty two London Boroughs<sup>(2)</sup>. Of these, 55,100 were female and 17,100 male, a proportion of male victims overall of just under 24%, ie. about one in four, a ratio which applied generally to each Borough. The sex of 400 persons who also reported was not recorded. See detailed results in Table 1 (page 9). The totals also do not reflect any complaints from persons suffering from controlling or coercive behaviour since this has only subsequently been included in the legal definition of DVA.

(2) However, as mentioned in the Introduction, such figures do not represent the full scale of the problem since many people do not report their experience to the police or to any other authority. National crime surveys suggest that only about 10% of male victims tell the police (26% women), only 23% will tell a person in an official position (43% women), and only 11% will tell a health professional (23% women)<sup>(3)</sup>. Amongst males, many young men may feel ashamed if their abuser is female, and fathers fear they may subsequently lose contact with their children or that their children will be exposed to an abusive mother if they left home.

(3) Research by the charity Stonewall<sup>(1)</sup> suggests that one in four lesbian and bi-women have experienced domestic abuse in a relationship, the perpetrator being a woman in two thirds of cases and a man in one third.

(4) The British Crime Survey for England and Wales for 2016/17<sup>(4)</sup>, of persons between 16 and 60, estimated that about 985 thousand women and 491 thousand men had experienced partner abuse during that year, a proportion of male victims of 36%, or about one in three.

(5) Overall therefore, the MPS totals for the London Boroughs possibly represent only a fraction of the population actually affected by the main forms of DVA.

### **Main results of enquiry**

Key results of the enquiries to the London Boroughs are shown in Table 2 (page 10). One Borough provided no information on the cost of services provided.

Overall, it appears that the main services provided during year 2016/17 are (i) the availability of Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs) by nearly all Boroughs, (ii) sanctuary/security provision by some Boroughs, (iii) refuge provision for females only by nearly all Boroughs, and (iv) some form of outreach services by nearly all Boroughs - see also Table 3 (page 11). Some outreach services were also provided by MOPAC.

#### *Numbers reporting DVA to Boroughs*

(1) The numbers of DVA victims presenting to the sixteen Boroughs which provided this information (see Table 4 on page 12), during year 2016/17 totalled 16,522. For the fourteen Boroughs which gave separate figures for each sex, some 13,877 were female and only 437 male, a proportion of male victims of a mere 3%. Such a minimal proportion, compared to the one third estimated overall for any domestic abuse in England and Wales by the British Crime Survey for 2016/17, and the one quarter registered by the Metropolitan Police in 2016/17, suggests either unusual circumstances applying in London, or that, with some exceptions, the London Boroughs generally do not do enough to attract male victims to report to them.

(2) The total number of female victims given as presenting to these fourteen Boroughs of 13,877 represents about 58% of the total number of DVA female victims reporting to the police in these Boroughs. For male victims, the proportion is only about 6%, supporting the view that there is a considerable under-reporting to the Boroughs by male victims.

#### *Numbers of persons provided with services*

(3) Boroughs were asked to give details of the total numbers of people provided with the range of services available. Some Boroughs did provide information in this respect, but others very little or none at all, presumably not necessarily having this information if the service had been outsourced. The actual extent of information provided is shown in Table 4.

(4) Due to the incompleteness of this data, it is not possible to give an estimate of the total number of people in London served in this way for comparison with the police records. However, some comparison can be made with information provided by the fourteen Boroughs which did indicate total numbers presenting for services, although such data is probably indicative rather than accurate.

(5) For females, total reports in 2016/17 to the police in these fourteen Boroughs amounted to 23,907, this from a total adult female population (16 and over) in these Boroughs of approximately 1,490 thousand (1.490 million), thus giving a ratio of 1.60

females per hundred population (1.6%). Ratios for individual Boroughs ranged from 0.93 per hundred (Richmond-upon-Thames) to 2.10 per hundred (for Greenwich). The comparable overall ratio for male victims was 0.5 per hundred adult male population.

(6) The comparable ratio for adult females, based on the numbers indicated by the Boroughs as having been provided with services, was overall 0.93 per hundred population in these Boroughs, ranging from a low of 0.04 per hundred (Merton) to a high of 3.16 per hundred (Greenwich). The comparable overall rate for adult males was 0.03 per hundred, confirming that far fewer male victims of DVA complain to their Boroughs than comparable females.

#### *IDVAs*

(7) An IDVA service for both sexes was provided by twenty two Boroughs, with two more possibly catering also for male victims, although this was not clear. Two Boroughs provided an IDVA service only for female victims. Five Boroughs appeared not provide this service at all.

#### *MARAC*

(8) The provision of Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences, these comprising regular local meetings of professionals to discuss how best to help victims of both sexes at high risk of harm, was provided apparently by only a minority of Boroughs, although possibly MOPAC services helped in this respect in some Boroughs.

#### *Sanctuary/home security.*

(9) This service, improving the security of victims own accommodation, appeared to be provided, for both sexes, by only about half of the Boroughs.

#### *Emergency accommodation.*

(10) This service was provided directly by only twelve Boroughs, and this possibly only for females by four of them. This general lack of such a service is puzzling, bearing in mind the possible extent of family or partner violence or abuse in the London area, and the legal responsibility of local authorities to provide temporary accommodation in such situations for vulnerable persons with priority needs.

#### *Refuge provision.*

(11) Except for four Boroughs, all the other twenty eight provided limited access to refuge accommodation, for females (and children) only, if places were available.

#### *Outreach*

(12) Some form of outreach service was provided by the majority of Boroughs, generally for both sexes, although this possibly involved a different service for each sex. Three Boroughs appeared to have no outreach service at all. Information provided by the Boroughs about Outreach services is shown in Table 3.

(13) Such services include floating support (but generally only for females), One-Stop-Shop (for both sexes), outreach (mostly for both sexes), counselling (for both sexes), and services aimed at ethnic groups.

#### *Costs to Boroughs*

(14) Thirty one Boroughs each provided their outlay for DVA services, this totalling £16,325 thousand (£16.325 million). Individual Boroughs ranged from the highest (Croydon) at £1,180 thousand (£1.180 million) to the lowest (Hammersmith & Fulham) at £87 thousand. See Table 5 (page 13).

(15) The outlay for refuges was given by sixteen Boroughs, this totalling £3,119 thousand (£3.119 million), about 37% of the total outlay for all services by these Boroughs.

(16) The information provided was insufficient to allow an estimate of the total numbers of women and children helped by refuge provision during year 2016/17.

(17) The enquiry also asked Boroughs for the percentage of total outlay specifically aimed at male victims presenting to them. Only thirteen Boroughs provided any information in this respect. See Table 6 (page 14).

(18) Two of these Boroughs reported proportions of a mere 5.4 and 2.4 per cent of total outlay devoted to male victims. In contrast, the other eleven Boroughs provided the total proportion of their outlay devoted to both sexes, this ranging from about 45% to 81% of total outlay, but with the majority in the range of 45 to 60% of total outlay. Such higher proportions suggest a wider availability of services for male victims by these particular Boroughs if such victims did indeed report to them.

#### *Pan-London services by MOPAC*

(19) MOPAC is headed by the Mayor of London who is directly accountable for policing performance in London, setting strategic direction and allocating resources.

(20) MOPAC funds the pan-London Domestic Abuse service available to both male and female victims of DVA. The MOPAC DVA team provides emotional and practical help to people who have been affected by DVA and offers specialist support for vulnerable victims.

(21) Their aims include ensuring that more victims of DVA have access to services in a wider range of locations, eg. in hospitals, GP surgeries, housing and community settings. They also work to integrate IDVAs with existing local providers and work with local authorities to ensure that local service objectives are met.

(22) Policy on DVA services is guided by decisions made by the London Councils. Their present work in this area includes ensuring that developing pan-London initiatives reflect local needs and working with the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) panel and MOPAC to take forward the London VAWG Strategy, including the issue of funding and provision of refuge beds. It is not clear just how much their initiatives, if any, are targeted at male victims, and indeed whether any services under a specific VAWG title will actually deter male victims from using them.

#### *Emergency/temporary accommodation by non-public organisations*

(23) Charitable and other organisations in London which can, or help to, provide emergency/temporary accommodation to victims of domestic violence/abuse of both sexes include Shelter, St Mungos, Centrepont Housing (to age 25), Victim Support and various other localised charities. Housing associations such as Hestia can be commissioned by Boroughs to provide temporary accommodation, although it is understood that at present Hestia has no such commissions for male victims.

#### *Emergency access hostels*

(24) This option is usually for 'rough' sleepers and is fairly basic - usually a room and shared bathroom and kitchen. Contact and assessment teams (CAT) are teams of support workers who each night aim to detect rough sleepers and try to ensure that emergency access hostels prioritise them.



### *Supported hostels*

(25) These are designed to provide medium term housing for people who need somewhere to live but have additional support needs, including people fleeing domestic violence but also those with mental health, drug or alcohol issues.

## **General conclusions**

(1) **There is a clear distinction between the numbers of DVA victims in the London Boroughs reporting to the Metropolitan Police and those presenting to the Boroughs and elsewhere in respect of services, in particular by male victims.** One in four DVA victims presenting to the police is male, compared to (for the fourteen Boroughs providing such information) the 3% presenting to these particular Boroughs and to the 7.6% presenting to MOPAC.

(2) In 2016/17, 23,907 adult females from these fourteen particular Boroughs reported DVA to the Metropolitan Police Service, compared to 7,583 males, a proportion of about 24% males. The same fourteen Boroughs reported to this enquiry that 13,874 females had presented to them in the same period on DVA issues, compared to only 437 males, a proportion of male victims of only about 3%. The MOPAC proportion of 7.6% for males reporting was of similar lower order. **Both these very low measures suggest a significant under-reporting by male victims to support services generally, even by those who suffer serious or chronic violence or abuse.** National Crime Surveys for England and Wales have found that male victims account for over 20% of victims of chronic domestic violence or abuse and over 30% of those reporting physical injury of some form<sup>(6)</sup>.

(3) The information provided by some Boroughs was incomplete and by others minimal. Despite this, it appears that overall, although most Boroughs provide some services for male victims, the main thrust of services is aimed at female victims (and their children) increasingly through VAWG initiatives. It is accepted that certain ethnic populations have particular problems affecting such thrust. However, any apparent bias in services (and/or attitudes) as a result of this, can only further discourage male victims generally from presenting to Boroughs and the MOPAC pan-London services. And whilst this perception continues, male victims generally are likely to receive inferior responsive services.

(4) **The lack of any pan-London emergency refuge accommodation or shelter for male victims and their children, in a city of some 7 million adults, is particularly startling.** This is surely an issue of sex equality deserving urgent attention by the London Councils.

(5) It is also unclear to what extent equality law has been applied by Boroughs and the London Councils to this issue. The 2006 Act defines 'equality' as meaning 'equality between individuals' (Section 8(2), ie. individuals comparably affected should receive comparable treatment. In contrast, under the 2010 Act, the Public Sector Equality Duty allows unequal treatment of some groups in order to advance the cause of other groups deemed to be at a disadvantage. However, any such treatment is likely to be deemed unlawful if it involved a direct discrimination, eg. a service only for one sex when both sexes may be affected, albeit to a different degree.

(6) **It is difficult not to conclude that male victims of DVA, despite forming about one quarter of those DVA victims reporting to the police, and about one**

**third of DVA victims reporting to national crime surveys, remain in the London Boroughs a minority group without much obvious serious socio-political support and disadvantaged in respect of services and concern.**

(7) Although there has been increasing recognition of their numbers and plight in recent years, particularly by the police, there appear to be areas elsewhere in the public sector, where the majority concerns of female victims dominate. The apparent increasing over-arching focus on VAWG initiatives by public authorities in London is not only unfair in name to male victims, albeit fewer in total numbers, but under this title may well further deter many male victims from presenting to them.

**(8) Male victims of DVA in London in general appear to be a disadvantaged group, in part possibly because they form a minority of victims. If this is indeed the case, should not the Public Sector Equality Duty also equally apply to them?**

## References

- (1) Stonewall Housing. Experiencing domestic abuse, Sanctuary Projects
- (2) MPS ref 2017090000591, FOI-1091-17-000
- (3) The ManKind Initiative: Male victims of domestic and partner abuse - 30 key facts. February 2017
- (4) ONS (British Crime Survey) - Domestic abuse: findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales 2016/17 for adults aged 16 to 59.
- (5) Homeless? Read this. The rules on how and when the council has to help you. A Shelter guide, Updated July 2013. See also Appendix 3.
- (6) ONS - Crime Survey for England and Wales, Statistical Bulletin, year ending March 2015, Appendix Tables 4.15 and 4.17.

## Tables

- Table 1 London Boroughs Populations and Domestic Violence reports to Police
- Table 2 Summary of Services provided for victims of DVA in 2016
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- Table 6 Proportions of total outlay by Boroughs allocated to male victims

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**Table 1 London Boroughs - Populations and DVA Reports to the Police**

Borough	Borough population June 2016 1000's	DVA victim reports to police <sup>(1)</sup> 1 April 16 - 31 March 17			
		Male	Female	Other	M/(M+F) %
Barking & Dagenham	206.5	519	1,787	7	22.5
Barnet	386.1	563	1,914	18	22.7
Bexley	244.8	414	1,361	11	23.3
Brent	328.3	681	2,143	18	24.1
Bromley	326.9	632	1,778	13	26.2
Camden	246.2	438	1,262	11	25.8
City of Westminster	247.6	346	1,128	9	23.5
Croydon	382.3	852	2,903	15	22.7
Ealing	343.2	768	2,179	16	26.1
Enfield	331.4	566	2,147	9	21.6
Greenwich	279.8	708	2,354	22	23.1
Hackney	273.5	613	2,049	12	23.0
Hammersmith & Fulham	179.7	368	1,087	9	25.3
Haringey	278.5	638	2,128	25	23.1
Harrow	248.8	369	1,176	9	23.9
Havering	252.8	533	1,686	8	24.0
Hillingdon	302.5	579	1,926	14	23.1
Hounslow	271.1	671	2,039	18	24.8
Islington	232.9	499	1,648	25	23.2
Kensington & Chelsea	156.7	207	689	4	23.1
Kingston upon Thames	176.1	226	756	7	23.0
Lambeth	327.9	603	2,041	9	22.8
Lewisham	301.9	740	2,302	16	24.3
Merton	205.0	307	1,067	15	24.1
Newham	341.0	692	2,435	10	22.1
Redbridge	299.3	516	1,552	4	25.0
Richmond upon Thames	195.9	298	728	8	29.0
Southwark	313.2	695	2,100	16	24.9
Sutton	202.2	288	975	10	22.8
Tower Hamlets	304.9	672	2,231	7	23.1
Waltham Forest	275.8	641	1,953	10	24.7
Wandsworth	316.1	451	1,583	15	22.2
	<b>8,778.5</b>	<b>17,093</b>	<b>55,107</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>23.7</b>

Sources: <https://www.citypopulation.de/php/uk/php/uk-greaterlondon.php>  
Metropolitan Police Service: FOI Request No: 2017 090000591, 17 Oct 2017

Table 2 Summary of Services provided for victims of DVA in 2016/17

	IDVA	MARAC	Security/ Sanctuar y	Emergcy accomdn	Refuge provision	Outreach /Other
Barking & Dagenham	F + M <sup>(1)</sup>	F + M			F	F
Barnet	F + M		F + M	F + M	F	
Bexley	F + M			F + M	F	F + M?
Brent	F + M	F + M				F + M
Bromley				F + M	F	F
Camden	F + M				F	F + M
City of Westminster		F + M?		F?	F	F + M
Croydon			F + M		F	F + M
Ealing	F + M				F (x2)	F
Enfield	F + M		F + M		F	F + M
Greenwich	F + M	F + M	F + M		F	F + M
Hackney	F	F + M	F + M			F + M
Hammersmith & Fulham	F					
Haringey	F	F + M	F + M	F + M	F	F + M
Harrow	F + M	F + M	F + M	F + M	F	F + M
Havering	F + M?			F + M	F (x2)	F + M
Hillingdon	F + M		F + M	F + M	F	F + M
Hounslow	F + M				F	F + M
Islington	F + M				F	F + M
Kensington & Chelsea			F + M		F	F + M
Kingston upon Thames	F + M		F + M	F + M	F	F + M
Lambeth			F + M		F	F + M
Lewisham	F + M			F + M		F + M
Merton	F + M			F + M	F	F + M
Newham	F + M				F	F + M
Redbridge	F + M		F + M		F	
Richmond upon Thames	F + M	F + M		F		F + M
Southwark	F + M		F + M		F	F + M
Sutton	F + M	F + M			F	F + M
Tower Hamlets	F + M	F + M	F + M		F	F + M
Waltham Forest	F + M?				F	F?
Wandsworth	F + M		F + M		F	F

F = Female, M = Male

Sources: Boroughs - Individual FOI's Aug/Sept/Oct 2017

(1) LBBD pan-London service

Borough FOI Requests - references

Barking & Dagenham 4721234, Barnet 3888396, Bexley 4540799, Brent 8163596, Bromley 13482, Camden 21048265, City of Westminster 6310833, Croydon 10008216, Ealing 17/1485, Enfield 1045007, Greenwich 7752, Hackney 0831-18491, Hammersmith & Fulham 1125711, Haringey 6564617, Harrow 3558097, Havering AIR14124P, Hillingdon 6140634, Hounslow 31658-31659, Islington 493617, Kensington & Chelsea 2017-1304, Kingston-upon-Thames CAS-421707-W8J7W2, Lambeth IR213057, Lewisham 415285, Merton E9350, Newham E29490, Redbridge 765533, Richmond-upon-Thames TR/richmond21298, Southwark 837396, Sutton F11141, Tower Hamlets 9743471, Waltham Forest FOIX330373, Wandsworth 2017/15480

**Table 3 Summary of Outreach/Other Services**

<b>Borough</b>	<b>Outreach/Other Services</b>
Barking & Dagenham	Counselling (F)
Barnet	---
Bexley	Counselling( Pan-London) (F), One-Stop-Shop (F + M)
Brent	Family support (F+M), Asian Women's Resource (F)
Bromley	LBBB IDVA service (F+M), Women's Aid (F)
Camden	IRIS (F+M), Holistic support (F+M)
City of Westminster	Angelou (F), Karma Nirvana (F+M), BAMER Survivors UK (M), pan-London (F+M)
Croydon	Counselling (F+M), Housing support (F+M), Other support (F+M)
Ealing	Floating support (F)
Enfield	Outreach (F), pan-London IDVA (M)
Greenwich	Floating support (F), Freedom programme (F), Specialist high-risk (F+M)
Hackney	Troubled families (F+M), NIA support (F), IRIS (F+M), Therapeutic (F+M?)
Hammersmith & Fulham	---
Haringey	Floating support (F), Hearthstone housing (F+M), pan-London IDVA (F+M)
Harrow	Floating support (Hestia) (F+M), MOPAC pan-London VAWG (F)
Havering	Outreach (F+M), MENDAS (M), Men-only helpline (M)
Hillingdon	Hesta floating support (F+M)
Hounslow	VAWG IDVA (F + M), VAWG One-Stop-Shop (F + M)
Islington	BAMER (F), DART (F), IRIS (F+M)
Kensington & Chelsea	Angelou VAWG integrated support team (F), pan-London services (M)
Kingston on Thames	Floating support (F+M)
Lambeth	Gaia Centre (VAWG) advocacy and outcome (F+M)
Lewisham	Outreach (F+M), IRIS dedicated GP service (F+M)
Merton	One-Stop-Shop (F+M), refer to ManKind and Respect (M)
Newham	One-Stop-Shop F+M)
Redbridge	---
Richmond upon Thames	Floating support(F), Outreach (F+M), Family Centre (F+M), ManKind (M)
Southwark	Counselling (F+M)
Sutton	One-Stop-Shop (F+M), Floating support (F?), Victim support (F+M), Mankind (M)
Tower Hamlets	One-Stop-Shop (F+M), Floating support (F+M), DV Forum
Waltham Forest	Support service (F?)
Wandsworth	Women's space (F)

Sources: Boroughs - Individual FOI's Aug/Sept/Oct 2017

**Table 4 Summary of numbers of DVA victims using Borough services in 2016/17**

Borough	Total references	IDVA	MARAC	Security/Sanctuary	Emergency accomdn	Refuge F only
Barking & Dagenham		F305, M23 <sup>(1)</sup>	F334, M10			38 users
Barnet		F1,160 M55		F88, M<5	F66, M<5	34 users
Bexley						26 users +ch
Brent		F+M 2,385	F+M 460			
Bromley	F114, M1					37 units
Camden						
City of Westminster	F+M 2,175		M10			35 beds
Croydon		F848, M64			F234, M40	
Ealing						30 units
Enfield						
Greenwich	F3,543, M5		F307, M14	F69, M1		
Hackney	F910, M85					
Hammersmith & Fulham	F155, M14					
Haringey		F 288	F339, M29	F35, M0	F529, M7	54 requests
Harrow			F+M 221		F+M 16	6 beds
Havering	F504, M53				F56, M13	
Hillingdon		F550, M30		F56, M0	F20, M2	
Hounslow	F675, M8					
Islington						
Kensington & Chelsea	F849, M5			F26, M0	F195, M16	19 places
Kingston upon Thames	F+M 33	F147, M6		F11, M1		23 users
Lambeth	F1,546, M84					114 users
Lewisham	F545, M12					
Merton	F36, M4					18 beds
Newham	F1,796 M46					
Redbridge	F992, M30					10 beds
Richmond-upon-Thames	F188, M<5	F347, M25			F29, Ch24	
Southwark	F2,024 M85					
Sutton			F209, M8			
Tower Hamlets			F391, M30			
Waltham Forest						14 units
Wandsworth		F304, M30		F33, M3		86 users
MOPAC <sup>(2)</sup>	Total referrals F6,045, M499 M=7.6% of total					

(1) LBBD pan-London service, 6 month period only Jan-June 2017

Sources: Boroughs - Individual FOI's Aug/Sept/Oct 2017

(2) MOPAC FOI communication 30 Jan 2018

**Table 5 Outlay by Boroughs for DVA services**

<b>Borough</b>	<b>Total outlay for DVA services £1000</b>	<b>Outlay for refuge(s) £1000</b>
Barking & Dagenham	430	
Barnet	771	
Bexley	na	
Brent	300	
Bromley	240	105
Camden	1,155	199
City of Westminster	616	
Croydon	1,180	
Ealing	220	
Enfield	450	
Greenwich	817	426
Hackney	550	
Hammersmith & Fulham	87 <sup>(3)</sup>	
Haringey	960	79
Harrow	295	48
Havering	344	253 <sup>(2)</sup>
Hillingdon	349	270 <sup>(1)</sup>
Hounslow	312	252 <sup>(1)</sup>
Islington	728	
Kensington & Chelsea	313	158
Kingston upon Thames	330	184
Lambeth	903	273
Lewisham	600	
Merton	301	
Newham	629	
Redbridge	434	84
Richmond upon Thames	359	
Southwark	761	
Sutton	368	123 <sup>(1)</sup>
Tower Hamlets	527	257
Waltham Forest	564	181 <sup>(2)</sup>
Wandsworth	432	227
<b>Totals</b>	<b>16,325</b>	<b>3,119</b>

(1) Includes also for some floating support

(2) Two refuges

(3) IDVA and sanctuary services only

na - not available

MOPAC<sup>(1)</sup> Pan London DV services available to both sexes

Total outlay £1,900,600 per year

(MOPAC FOI communication 30 Jan 2018)

**Table 6 Proportions of total outlay by Boroughs allocated to male victims**

<b>Borough</b>	<b>Specific allocation %</b>	<b>Proportion of total %</b>	<b>No information</b>
Barking & Dagenham		F+M 67.5	
Barnet		F+M 58.7	
Bexley			ni
Brent			ni
Bromley	zero		
Camden			ni
City of Westminster			ni
Croydon			ni
Ealing	zero		
Enfield	zero		
Greenwich			ni
Hackney			ni
Hammersmith & Fulham			ni
Haringey			ni
Harrow			ni
Havering			ni
Hillingdon			ni
Hounslow	zero		
Islington	5.4	F+M 56	
Kensington & Chelsea	zero		
Kingston upon Thames		F+M 54.5	
Lambeth		F+M 70	
Lewisham	zero		
Merton			ni
Newham			ni
Redbridge		F+M 80.6	
Richmond upon Thames	2.4	F+M 45.8	
Southwark			ni
Sutton		F+M 55.2	
Tower Hamlets		F+M 51.2	
Waltham Forest		F+M 49.6	
Wandsworth		F+M 45.1	

Sources: Borough FOI's 2017

ni = no information provided



## **Appendix 1**

Standard Freedom of Information Request sent to London Borough Councils and to Greater London Authority.

*Information Officer*

*Information Request*

*Would you please provide us with the following information:*

*For the year 2016/17 (or latest year of complete record):*

*1 What services or provisions (eg. IDVA, House security, Emergency accommodation, Refuge/safe house, Outreach, Support, Other) did the Council provide directly or indirectly to support specifically victims of Domestic Abuse/Violence reporting to or being referred to the Council relating to : (a) Female victims (b) Male victims*

*2 Number of individual requests seeking such help (a) Female (b) Male*

*3 Total funding expended/allocated by the Council in the same period to provide such services - (£k)*

*4 Proportion of total funding relating specifically to Male victims - (per cent)*

*Our thanks for your assistance.*

## **Appendix 2**

London Councils

London Councils is the local government association for Greater London. It is a cross-party organisation that represents the 32 London Boroughs and the City of London. It was formed in 1995 as a merger of the London Boroughs Association and the Association of London Authorities. It is essentially a 'think tank' promoting policies, but also provides some services directly through legislation that allows multiple local authorities to pool responsibility and funding.

London Councils concerns in the area of domestic violence/abuse include ensuring that developing pan-London initiatives reflect local needs and working with the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Panel and MOPAC to take forward the London VAWG strategy, including the issue of funding and provision of refuge beds.

London Councils also funds the Ascent Partnership to deliver services to tackle sexual and domestic violence across all the Boroughs.

## **Appendix 3**

Organisations in London which support victims of domestic violence/abuse

*Centrepoint Homeless Services*

For young people aged 16 to 25 either homeless or at risk of homelessness

*Citizens Advice Bureau*

General advice.

*Community legal advice*

Free legal advice for residents

*Crisis*

Specialist centres providing safe accommodation to rough sleepers, women and people with dependency issues

*Galop*

National LGBT Domestic Abuse helpline

*London Centre for Domestic Violence*

Offers free legal; advice on non-molestation orders and occupation orders

*Mankind Initiative*

National helpline in Taunton for male victims of domestic violence and abuse

*Mens Advice Line*

Provides advice and support for men in abusive relationships

*National Centre for Domestic Violence*

Provides free legal advice regarding court orders and criminal law

*Reach project*

Supports in particular LGBT victims.

*Refuge*

Advice and accommodation centre for women experiencing domestic abuse

*Rights of Women*

Legal advice for women experiencing domestic abuse

*Samaritans*

Helpline for distressed persons

*Shelter*

Housing advice, support and legal services

*St Mungos*

Housing First schemes to help people caught in a cycle of street homelessness

*Stonewall*

Advice and support for LGBT and transgender victims of domestic violence

*StreetLink*

National rough sleeper referral service

*Victim Support*

Free advice and support for victims affected by crime

*Women's Aid*

Advice and accommodation for women experiencing domestic violence

*Women's Trust*

Provides counselling for women victims.

## **Appendix 4**

### **Emergency/temporary accommodation<sup>(1)</sup>**

Many councils have housing options or homelessness prevention schemes. If a person in a Council area is homeless or is likely to become homeless during the next four weeks, due to or because of the risk of, amongst other things, domestic violence or threats of violence, the council must allow that person to apply for alternative accommodation. But it has to help.

As well as checking that the applicant is generally eligible, the Council will check if the applicant is in one of the 'priority need' groups, vulnerable, whether the applicant is 'intentionally' homeless, and if the applicant has a local connection in the area.

If the Council considers that the applicant is homeless and eligible for assistance and in priority need, it must provide temporary accommodation while the applicant's situation is more fully considered.

In England, a person is considered to be in priority need if:

- the applicant or someone living with the applicant is pregnant
- the applicant is responsible for dependent children
- the applicant is a 'vulnerable' person
- the applicant is aged 16 or 17
- the applicant is aged 18 to 20 and has previously when aged 16 to 17 been looked after by social services (even for one day).

Vulnerability can be because

- of old age
- physical or mental illness or disability
- over age 20 and previously in care
- previously in the armed forces or prison, custody or detention
- the applicant can no longer stay in their own home because of abuse or violence or threats of violence, this including harassment due to gender, ethnic origin or religion.

An applicant may still be in priority need if:

- he/she shares looking after their children with an ex-spouse or partner
- the children can't live with the applicant because of his/her housing problem
- the children are in care because of the applicant's housing problem.

If the Council accepts that the applicant is homeless, eligible for assistance and in priority need, it must ensure that the applicant has somewhere to live whilst it fully considers the application. This may comprise something basic like bed and breakfast. Even then, the Council can provide such accommodation for no more than six weeks, and may require the applicant to contribute a reasonable amount towards the cost of this.

Even if the Council considers the applicant is not in 'priority need' or 'intentionally homeless', it must still house the applicant temporarily.

The Council will also explore if the applicant has any 'local connection', although it cannot turn the applicant away for lack of this. Even if the applicant has no local connection, the Council cannot send the applicant back to an area where the applicant would again be at risk of violence or threats of violence. If the applicant has no local connection anywhere, the Council cannot refer the applicant to another council for housing.

A new law - the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 - is set to come into force in April 2018. Amongst other things, it puts new duties on local authorities in England to prevent and relieve homelessness for everyone, including people who don't count as 'priority need'<sup>(2)</sup>.

(1) Based on 'Homeless? The rules on how and when the council has to help you'. *A Shelter Guide*.

(2) Homelessness in England. *Full Fact*. <https://fullfact.org/economy/homelessness-england/>, Feb 2018